

21 April 1981

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FRESNO, CALIF. (AP) - FIVE MEN HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO STAND TRIAL HERE AUG. 25 ON CHARGES OF TAKING SENSITIVE MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM CHINA LAKE NAVAL WEAPONS CENTER IN THE MOJAVE DESERT.

ITEMS REPORTED STOLEN IN 1978 AND 1979 INCLUDED A FIVE-FOOT-LONG REMOTE-CONTROLLED HELICOPTER; A LOW-LIGHT TELEVISION CAMERA AND STARLIGHT NIGHT VISION SCOPES USED FOR SURVEILLANCE.

PUBLISHED REPORTS SAID THE MEN MAY HAVE THOUGHT THEY WERE RIDING THE CIA, BUT AUTHORITIES BELIEVE THE STOLEN MATERIAL WAS DESTINED FOR THE DRUG SMUGGLING OUTFIT KNOWN AS THE COMPANY.

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